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Circular Letter No. 43.

October 7, 1913.

To Supervising Principals.

Gentlemen:-

(Part referring to English only)

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ENGLISH
Text: Emerson's Composition and Rhetoric.

9-1. Pages 1-128.
9-2. Pages 129-221.
10-1. Pages 222-344.
10-2. Pages 345-456.

The work for these two years is divided into Composition and Rhetoric (three periods a week), and the study of English classics (two periods a week). Of these the composition is the most important. Pupils need constant drill in expressing their thoughts in oral and written form to secure facility. Board work corrected in the presence of the class is valuable. The drudgery of correcting written work may be lessened in this way but can not be entirely avoided, and to produce results written work must be corrected. In the review of grammar and punctuation in the first term see that the principles are thoroughly understood and insist that t ey be applied to practice afterwards.

Encourage pupils to read widely, especially works of standerd merit. The following English classics should be read in class: "A Tale of Two Cities","Ivanhoe" and the "Sketch Book" in the ninth grade and four of the following in the tenth: "Gray's Elegy"; "The Deserted Village"; "Franklin's Autobiography"; "The Ancient Mariner"; "Julius Caesar". At least three books each year, in addition to the classics studied in class, should be read and reviews prepared by each pupil.

To secure facility in oral expression, require pupils to give a few minutes talk on current events, one or two pupils taking part at the beginning of each class hour. Formal debates with three or four pupils on a side will prove valuable. Have a"laboratory hour" once every two weeks of oftener in which the written work may be gone over by pupil and teacher together.

Yours very truly,
F. E. LIBBY
Acting Commissioner.